

Cochin International Airport

736. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cochin International Airport is the first Corporate Airport where 10,000 NRIs from 30 countries hold major stakes and it is the fastest growing Airport in India and whether it has developed a full fledged township around the airport and is planning to run its own airlines;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study on the multi-faceted fast growth; and

(c) whether the experiences so gained there or techniques adopted by them, could be tried selectively in other State-run airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Cochin International Airport was promoted by the State Government of Kerala on Public-Private-Participation (PPP) basis. There are 14,000 shareholders, out of which 4000 are Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from 30 countries. During 2005-06, Cochin International Airport has registered 18% growth in terms of passenger traffic. As a part of the commercial Land Utilization Plan, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has planned an Aerotropolis around the airport. CIAL has also floated an airline company. However, its commercial flight operations are yet to start.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Adoption of best practices in running the airports, including the State run airports is a continuous exercise.

New Air Cargo Complex at Thiruvananthapuram

737. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the construction of a new Air Cargo Complex at Thiruvananthapuram Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and